Message Text

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R 181149Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2775 INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO AMEMBASSY DACCA AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5518

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR IN PINT

SUBJECT: NEPAL: CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FORMED FOR RELEASE OF KOIRALA

REF: NEW DELHI 5201

1. A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF LUMINARIES OF THE JANAVTA
PARTY TO WORK FOR THE RELEASE OF NEPALI CONGRESS LEADER
B.P. KOIRALA WAS FORMED APRIL 15. INCLUDED ARE SURENDRA MOHAN,
GENERAL SECRETARY, JANATA PARTY; KRISHNA KANT, MP, WORKING
CHAIRMAN OF THE PEOPLE'S UNION NOR CIVIL LIBERTIES;
V.M. TARKUNDE, WORKING CHAIRMAN, CITIZENS FOR DEMOCRACY,
AND FORMER JUSTICE, BOMBAY HIGH COURT; GOVIND MUKHOTY,
VICE PRESIDENT, SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION; CHANDRA
SHEKHAR, MP; AND VISHNU DUTT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
CITIZENS FOR DEMOCRACY.

2. THE "TIMES OF INDIA" ON APRIL 16 EDITORIALLY ARGUED THAT KING BIRENDRA SHOULD HEED J.P. NARAYAN'S APPEAL FOR THE RELEASE OF B.P. KOIRALA (REFTEL). "...MR. KOIRALA IS WIDELY REGARDED IN INDIA AS THE SYMBOL OF THE STRUGGLE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE NEPALESE PEOPLE FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND THAT HIS CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT WILL PLACE CONSIDERABLE STRAIN ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." THE NEW GOI, THE "TIMES" CONTINUED, CANNOT IGNORE THE OPINION IN THE JANATA PARTY. "...THOSE AT THE HELM OF AFFAIRS IN INDIA CANNOT OE EVASIVE ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BECAUSE THEY HAVE WON THE ELECTION PRECISELY ON THAT PLATFORM, AND THAT

THIS WILL INFLUENCE THEIR POLICY TOWARDS OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THEIR NEIGHBORS." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT THE TASK OF INDIANS WHO WISH TO RESPOND GENEROUSLY TO THE NEEDS OF NEPAL WILL BE FACILITATED IF THE GON BEGINS TO LIBERALIZE AND AS A TOKEN, ORDERS KOIRALA'S IMMEDIATE RELEASE.SCHNEIDER

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